<center>REMARKS</center>

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. No claims have been amended. Claims 7-8, 13-14, and 25-26 were previously cancelled without prejudice. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-6, 9-12,15-24 and 27-36 are now are presented for examination.

<center>35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection</center>

Claims 1-6, 9-12, 15-24 and 27-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boden et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,167,444 ("Boden").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the reference and submits that Boden discloses having a *"host computer . . .* [operating] *as a gateway interfacing* a plurality of network interfaces in a communication system including *local area networks and wide area networks"* and maintains a *"redistribution parameter . . . in a configuration file* for each of a plurality of network interfaces, with the redistribution parameter defaulted to full for local area network interfaces and to limited for wide area network interfaces" (Abstract; emphasis provided).

Although Boden discloses using a *host computer as a gateway* interfacing a plurality of network interfaces in a communication system including *local area networks and wide area networks* and using a *redistribution parameter in a configuration file*, it is the not the same as the packet exchange between the two network devices. Further, the determination, verification, and choosing of the routing protocol version that is acceptable to and is the same for the first and second network devices and the configuration of the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for both the first and the second network devices, as recited by claim 1. Boden does not teach or

reasonably suggest <u>determining, verifying, and choosing of the routing protocol version that is the same for the first and second network devices</u>, as recited by claim 1.

In contrast, claim 1, in pertinent, recites "receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device . . . determining <u>whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version</u>; <u>verifying the first network device's routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's</u> routing protocol version; <u>choosing the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices</u>; and <u>configuring the link</u> such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first and second network devices (emphasis provided).

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

With regard to independent claims 9, 15, 21, 27 and 32, the claims contain limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request the rejection of claims 9, 15 and 21 and their dependent claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.
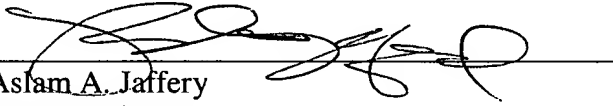
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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